

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The claims have been amended responsive to the claim 3 objection and the indefiniteness rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 1 originally recited "b) said mount forms a typically two-dimensional object, of larger dimension D typically less than 50 mm, and of thickness E typically less than 0.3 D, in such a way that said brush (1) is able to be placed typically in a make-up case (5)". The claim now recites the mount having a larger dimension less than 50 mm, and a thickness less than 30% of the larger dimension.

Claim 1 now includes the recitations of claim 18 concerning the mount (2) including different cavities C_i (24, 24') to which the tufts are anchored.

As to original claim 22, See the paragraph spanning specification pages 11-12: "... said compacted product (9) includes two different compacted products PC1 and PC2 typically forming a single block of compacted powder, and separated along a typically straight line of demarcation LD, so that, said brush being applied against said compacted product and said central common area ZC of said tufts along said line of demarcation LD, it is thus possible to take up simultaneously two different products typically in a single movement."

As to claims 6 and 7, "wherein said different surfaces are contiguous and non-overlapping" and "wherein each of said different surfaces are free of contact with any adjacent surface", see Figures 2b, 3b showing contiguous and non-overlapping and Figure 4b showing free of contact with any adjacent surface.

Claims 1-7, 10, 13, 14, and 16-19 were rejected as obvious over DUMLER 6,312,182.

Claims 1, 2, and 15 were rejected as obvious over PEREZ 4,128,911.

Claims 1, 7-9, 11, and 12 were rejected as obvious over SIMMONS 5,554,699.

Claims 20-21 were rejected over DUMLER in view of GUERET 6,073,634.

Claims 22-25 were rejected over DUMLER in view of GUERET and FERRARI 5,086,791.

The claims have been amended so as to patentably recite the present invention. The presently amended claims are believed to be both novel and non-obvious over the prior art.

In the prior art, the handle which would correspond to the recited invention mount is not a rigid mount structured as a manual grip for a user, the mount comprising plural cavities separated from each other, the mount having the recited dimensional area.

Further, the prior art, taken individually or in any reasonable combination thereof, does not disclose having at least two tufts configured to apply a powdered product onto a support wherein each tuft includes a foot and a sheaf of flexible application material, each sheaf anchored in a corresponding one of the cavities. The prior art specifically does not teach the sheafs having an outer envelope and an application surface such that the application surfaces are positioned to simultaneously allow at least two different applications of powder onto the support with each application surface being free of overlap with any other application surface.

In the prior art, all of the application surfaces overlap.

See that the dependent claims recite the application surfaces contacting each other or being separate from each other, the independent claim requiring no overlap.

The references do not teach this configuration. See specifically SIMMONS that includes groups of four application surfaces, each of these individual application surfaces contacting each other. Although the groups do not contact each other, the individual application surfaces contact each other. The recitations of claim 1 have been drafted so as to avoid the application surfaces illustrated by Figure 1 of SIMMONS. If the Examiner interprets this claim differently than this, it is requested that the Examiner examine the claim in the manner just

discussed and provide applicant with an opportunity to amend the claim as intended.

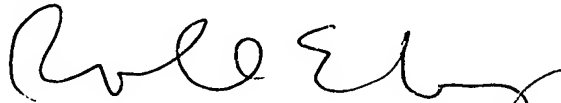
In view of this, applicant believes that the claims are patentable over the prior art.

Should there be any outstanding remaining issues, it would be appreciated that the undersigned attorney be contacted in order to arrange an interview to discuss any further formal amendments that may be necessary.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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